

Message Text

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15

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 IO-10 SAB-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 NSAE-00

NSCE-00 SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-02

NSC-05 PA-02 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 AID-05 ACDA-10

SAM-01 EB-07 FEA-01 COME-00 TRSE-00 OMB-01 CIEP-02

INT-05 STR-04 EUR-12 /110 W
----- 073497

O R 160812Z DEC 74

FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1834

INFO AMEMBASSY TEHRAN IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

UNCLAS BEIRUT 14952

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, SOPN, ENRG, XF, IR

SUBJECT: SHAH STATEMENT ON MIDEAST

REF: BEIRUT 14874; TEHRAN 10534 (NOTAL)

SUMMARY: FULLER TRANSLATION OF SHAH INTERVIEW AL
HAWADITH PUBLISHED MIDDLE EAST ECONOMIC SURVEY (MEES)
AND ARAB WORLD (NEWS DIGEST) DEC 13. EXCERPTS FOLLOW.
END SUMMARY

1. THE CURRENT SITUATION IN THE MIDDLE EAST: "WE HAVE THE
SAME POSITION WE HAVE ALWAYS TAKEN, A POSITION OF
FRIENDLINESS TOWARD THE ARABS ... SINE 1947 IRAN
HAS SUPPORTED EVERY RESOLUTION ISSUED BY THE UN. THERE
HAVE POSSIBLY BEEN PERIODS WHEN WE WERE NOT ON FRIENDLY
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TERMS WITH SOME ARAB COUNTRIES. BUT ESPECIALLY SINCE

1967, AFTER ISRAEL OCCUPIED PARTS OF ARAB TERRITORY BY FORCE, WE HAVE STOOD UNEQUIVOCALLY AGAINST THE OCCUPATION OF OTHERS' TERRITORY BY FORCE. ISRAEL BECAME AN OCCUPYING POWER AND THIS IS A DANGEROUS PRECEDENT IN THE MIDDLE EAST WHICH CANNOT BE ACCEPTED. OUR POSITION DEVELOPS AS THE SITUATION CHANGES. WE SUPPORTED THE ARAB VIEW BECAUSE THE ARABS BECAME THE VICTIMS OF A FOREIGN OCCUPATION. EVENTS HAVE PROVED TO THE ARABS NOT ONLY THAT IRAN'S POLICY SUPPORTS THEIR LEGITIMATE RIGHTS BUT ALSO THAT THE POLICY OF CERTAIN ARAB STATES HOSTILE TO IRAN WAS MISCONCEIVED AND TOTALLY UNJUSTIFIED. WHEN THESE STATES CHANGED THEIR POLICY THEY FOUND US READY TO COOPERATE AT ALL LEVELS.

". . . I THINK HIGHLY OF WHAT PRESIDENT SADAT HAS DONE FOR THE ARAB CAUSE IN GENERAL AND THE PALESTINIAN CAUSE IN PARTICULAR. MY FORTHCOMING VISIT TO CAIRO (IN THE FIRST HALF OF NEXT MONTH) IS AN EXPRESSION OF THIS ESTEEM. SADAT IS WITHOUT DOUBT A GREAT MAN DEDICATED TO PEACE, BUT REGRETTABLY THE ISRAELIS HAVE NOT RESPONDED TO HIM. AND THE AMERICANS HAVE NOT HELPED HIM ENOUGH TO FIND THE SOLUTION THEY SAY THEY WANT IN THE MIDDLE EAST.

". . . WE CAN NEVER ACCEPT A CHANGE IN THE STATUS OF JERUSALEM. IRAN PUT FORWARD A DRAFT RESOLUTION ON JERUSALEM IN THE SECURITY COUNCIL IN 1967. THE US AND ALL THE LATIN AMERICAN COUNTRIES WERE READY TO VOTE FOR THIS RESOLUTION. IT WAS THE HARD LINE TAKEN BY ONE OR TWO ARAB DELEGATES WHICH BLOCKED THIS DRAFT IN NOVEMBER 1967. IF THE SECURITY COUNCIL HAD VOTED ON THE RESOLUTION OUR POSITION WOULD BE BETTER NOW. THE ARAB COUNTRIES WHICH VOTED AGAINST IT THEN NOW REALIZE THEIR MISTAKE. WE OURSELVES REGRETTED THE LOSS OF SUCH AN OPPORTUNITY.

". . . THERE ARE ONLY TWO WAYS: EITHER ISRAEL ACCEPTS THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE UN RESOLUTIONS, OR THERE IS NO ALTERNATIVE TO WAR ... OF COURSE THIS TIME IT WILL BE OUR WAR, WE HAVE NO CHOICE. ISRAEL CAN HAVE ONE OF TWO SOLUTIONS: EITHER TO ACCEPT THE UN RESOLUTIONS VIA UNCLASSIFIED

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THE GENEVA CONFERENCE OR ANY OTHER WAY, AND IF NOT, WAR."

2. US MILITARY INTERVENTION: "AMERICAN MILITARY INTERVENTION IN ORDER TO OCCUPY THE OIL WELLS? I THINK THAT SUCH AN OPERATION IS DIFFICULT. IF THE OPEC COUNTRIES MAINTAIN THEIR SOLIDARITY THE US WILL HAVE TO OCCUPY EVERY OPEC COUNTRY. DON'T YOU THINK THAT WOULD BE DIFFICULT, NOT TO SAY IMPOSSIBLE?" BUT THE SHAH SAID

THE STATEMENTS RECENTLY MADE BY WILLIAM COLBEY, CHIEF OF THE U.S. CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY (CIA), SHOULD BE TAKEN SERIOUSLY. (COLBEY HAD SAID THE UNITED STATES HAS THE RIGHT TO INTERVENE, EITHER DIRECTLY OR INDIRECTLY, ANYWHERE IN THE WORLD IN ORDER TO PROTECT ITS INTERESTS). "I CONSIDER THIS SERIOUS TALK." THE SHAH SAID. "THE AMERICANS USUALLY SAY (AND DO) WHAT THE OTHERS WOULD DO WITHOUT SAYING IT," THE SHAH ADDED.

3. CONSUMER-PRODUCER RELATIONS: "I THINK WE ARE HEADED TOWARDS DIALOGUE AND MUTUAL UNDERSTANDING, NOT CONFRONTATION AND CONFLICT." DESPITE FRIENDLY RELATIONS WITH AMERICA, THE SHAH SAID HE REPLIED TO THE "THREATS" RECENTLY MADE BY U.S. PRESIDENT GERALD FORD "BECAUSE I WAS DEFENDING A JUST CAUSE -- A CAUSE IN WHICH NOT ONLY THE OIL-PRODUCING STATES BELIEVE, BUT WHICH IS ALSO BACKED BY ALL NATIONS OF THE THIRD WORLD."

4. THE POSSIBILITY OF A NEW OIL EMBARGO: "THE POSSIBILITY EXISTS, BUT IS IT IN THE THE INTERESTS OF THE ARABS". THIS IS A QUESTION WHICH SHOULD BE STUDIED VERY CAREFULLY." HOUGHTON

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